

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 RSC-01 FEA-02 DRC-01 /092 W

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FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3863

INFO AEC GERMANTOWN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PRAM, TECH, IAEA, SP, UK, FR

SUBJECT: PROPOSED TRANSFER OF SPANISH-ORIGIN PLUTONIUM
FROM UK TO FRANCE

1. ROMETSCH, IAEA INSPECTOR GENERAL, TELLS MISSION THAT HE RECEIVED CABLE JAN 21 FRM HMG, STATING THAT UK WISHED TRANSFER, AT END OF JANUARY, 32 KG PU TO FRENCH CEA OF TOTAL OF 75 KG PU WHICH UK HAD PREVIOUSLY ARRANGED WITH IAEA TO BE SUBSTITUTED, FOR IAEA SAFEGUARDS PURPOSES, FOR PU RECOVERED IN UK FROM REPROCESSING ZORITA REACTOR FUEL. UK CABLE NOTES THAT PU TO BE TRANSFERRED WILL BE LISTED IN INVENTORY UNDER US-EURATOM BILATERAL AND STATES THAT "TRANSFER HAS BEEN CLEARED WITH U.S. AUTHORITIES UNDER MB-10 RTD/EU (UK)-111". CABLE REQUESTS IAEA'S ADVICE WHETHER TRANSFER UNDER THOSE ARRANGEMENTS ACCEPTABLE TO AGENCY.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH MISOFFS, ROMETSCH REFERRED TO SECTION 13 OF SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT BETWEEN UK AND IAEA (INFCIRC/175), WHICH CALLS FOR UK TO NOTIFY AGENCY OF ANY INTENDED TRANSFER OF MATERIAL TO WHICH AGREEMENT APPLIES (PU RECOVERED OR DEEMED TO BE RECOVERED FROM ZORITA FUEL CLEARLY IS COVERED) TO RECIPIENT
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OUTSIDE UK JURISDICTION AND WHICH SPECIFIES THAT SUCH MATERIAL

MAY BE TRANSFERRED, PROVIDED THAT "ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO SAFEGUARD SUCH MATERIAL TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE AGENCY".

3. ROMETSCH STATED THAT HIS RESPONSE TO UK CABLE COULD ONLY STATE THAT, BEFORE AGENCY COULD FIND PROPOSED TRANSFER ACCEPTABLE, ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR EITHER (A) SUBSTITUTION OF OTHER PU IN UK FOR THE QUANTITY TO BE TRANSFERRED OR (B) APPLICATION OF IAEA SAFEGUARDS TO TRANSFERRED PU IN FRANCE.

4. SINCE MISSION HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF U.S. "CLEARANCE" REFERRED TO IN UK CABLE, WE COULD ONLY RESPOND THAT WE WOULD REPORT MATTER, INCLUDING HIS INTENDED RESPONSE.

5. NEITHER ROMETSCH NOR MISSION KNOW WHETHER PROPOSED TRANSFER IS AT REQUEST OF SPAIN (WHO MAY HAVE, FOR EXAMPLE, CONTRACTED TO SELECT PU INVOLVED TO FRANCE) OR AT UK INITIATIVE. IN EITHER EVENT, ROMETSCH'S RESPONSE MAY GENERATE REPERCUSSIONS IN VARIOUS QUARTERS. LABOWITZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS, FISSIONABLE MATERIALS TRANSFER
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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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